been sanctioned for Karnataka at the cost or Rs. 375.39 crore under RGGVY.

Demand and supply of power in Madhya Pradesh

†2530. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position regarding the demand and availability of electricity in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the efforts being made by Government to improve power production and the situation of power in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) During the month of July, 2006, the demand and availability of power in Madhya Pradesh was as under:

Energy				Peak			
Requirement	Availability	Deficit		Demand	Met	Deficit	
(MU)	(MU)	(MU)	(%)	(MW)	(MW)	(MW)	(%)
2308	2095	213	9.2	4397	3658	739	16.8

(b) Electricity being a concurrent subject, supply and distribution of electricity in a State is in the purview of the concerned State Government/ State Power Utility/State Electricity Board. Government of India supplements the efforts of State Government (s) by commissioning power projects through Central Public Sector Undertakings. The following steps have been taken by the Government to improve availability of power in Madhya Pradesh:

(i) Besides its firm share in Central Generating Stations (CGSs) of Western Region (WR), 166 MW (19%) power from the unallocated quota of CGSs of WR and 50 MW from the NTPC stations of Eastern Region has been allocated to Madhya Pradesh (M.P.);

(ii) Strengthening/augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution system in States under Accelerated Power Development & Reforms

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Programme (APDRP) is a major step towards reduction of Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) Losses. Under this programme, projects with a total outlay of Rs.663.63 crore have been sanctioned for M.P., with APDRP component of Rs. 230.74 crore out of which Rs. 129.87 crore have been released upto 31.3.2006.

(iii) A 500 MW unit of Vindhyachal STPS-III has been commissioned on 27th July, 2006 and projects with a total capacity of 1500 MW in central sector are scheduled to be commissioned during 2006-07. Madhya Pradesh will have share in these stations as per entitlement.

Status of Science Sector

†2531. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister's scientific advisor, Prof. C.N.R. Rao, has recently commented on the status of science in the country;

(b) if so, the status of science sector in the country as per his comment;

(c) whether the actual status of science sector is different; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Professor C.N.R. Rao, Chairman, Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister has expressed concern on the current status of science in the country. Attention has been drawn to important issues concerning science which include: poor enrolment of devoted young people into science education, declining trend of Indian science contributions at International academic level; scale of our investment in science in State and Central Universities; lack of growth of number of institutions of excellence, lack of freedom of operation in scientific and higher educational institutions.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.